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2 December 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Operations

SUBJECT: Protection of Copyright Information  
Disseminated by FDD [REDACTED]

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1. Pursuant to our telephone conversation today on the above subject, I feel it may be helpful to you if we put in writing our opinion and recommendation. As we understand your concern, it has to do with the copyrighted information monitored by [REDACTED] and then disseminated by that division, and similarly the copyrighted documents exploited by FDD and the dissemination of that copyrighted material by that division. It is a question apparently of your liability should this information fall into hands which would use it in violation of the copyright agreements. Included is the problem of the further dissemination by those divisions of intercepted or exploited slanderous information.

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2. To this office it appears that the use of a stamp or caveat designed to prevent violation of copyright serves only as your attempt to confine the use of copyright information to official purposes. Such a stamp or caveat probably does not, in our opinion, serve as a legal safeguard against any liability.

3. We recommend that O/O, with the assistance of the General Counsel, submit to the Director through the DD/I a statement of this problem, your joint opinion as to liability, and O/O's current steps to prevent violation of copyright together with a recommendation for appropriate legislative or executive action, if deemed necessary, to provide adequate protection to the DCI.

[REDACTED]  
Assistant Director  
Intelligence Coordination

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